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Title: Need to introduce a fast passenger train between Madurai and Chennai Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Sir, I emphasise the need for introducing a day time fast passenger train between Madurai and Chennai Egmore, *via* Kodaikanal Road and Dindigul as early as possible for the following reason.

For travelling on Chennai-Madurai route, Express train fares are not affordable for low income group people. Absence of a fast passenger train in this busy and most sought after route is very keenly felt by passengers in the low income bracket. In fact, the demand for introduction of such a train is a long pending one. The present fare for unreserved second class in a Superfast Express train between the two cities is Rs.128 whereas the fare for the same distance in a fast passenger train would be around Rs.64 only, a saving of 50 per cent in the fare.

Low income group passengers do not mind about the consumption of two to three hours extra running time taken by a fast passenger train provided the cost of travel is comparatively much cheaper than that of an Express train.

Introduction of a day time fast passenger train *via* Dindigul will immensely benefit passengers bound for intermittent stations and passengers boarding from such stations since Express trains halt only at important stations en route.

I request the hon. Minister for Railways to introduce a fast passenger train which will considerably reduce the pressure and heavy demand for accommodation now experienced in Express trains in this over utilised route.